

Definition:

It is a cephalic presentation in which the head is completely extended.

Incidence: 1:300

(Remember: • 1:30 → Breech at term • 1:3000 → Brow Presentation)

Etiology:

A) Primary face:

-It is diagnosed during pregnancy.

-It is usually due to fetal causes which may be:

1-Congenital Anomalies:

- **Anencephaly:** absence of the bony vault of the skull and the scalp while the facial portion is normal.
- **Dolicocephaly:** long antero-posterior diameter of the head, so as the breadth is less than 4/5 of the length.
- **Tumors of the fetal neck e.g. congenital goiter**

2-Loops of the cord around the neck

3-IUFD: due to lack of tone of flexor muscles

4-Large sized fetus

5-Multiple Pregnancy

B) Secondary face:

-It occurs during labor

-It is due to: Further deflexion of occipitoposterior position in the following cases: (4 P)

- 1-Contracted Pelvis
- 2-Pelvic Tumor
- 3-Placenta Previa
- 4-Pendulous abdomen

Presentation: Relation of the denominator to the maternal pelvis

The denominator in Face presentation is the mentum (chin)

**Remember

The denominator: is a bony landmark on the presenting part used to denote the position

• Vertex → the occiput • Face → the mentum (chin) • breech → the sacrum

• Shoulder → the scapula • Brow → Frontal Bone

Positions: -Right mento-posterior -Left mento-posterior -Right mento-anterior -Left mento-anterior

**Anterior position (80%) is more common than posterior (20%), as face presentation usually results from occipitoposterior position

Diagnosis:

I) During Pregnancy

A) History: -Mento-anterior: Patient may feel fetal movements on both sides

B) Examination:

Inspection: -Feel movements on both sides

-Subumbilical groove: present in (Mento/Occipito/Sacro) Posterior

Palpation:

-Fundal level: corresponds to the period of amenorrhea -Fundal grip: the breech is felt

-Umbilical grip: •Mento-ant.→ back can't be felt •Mento-post.→ back is felt in its upper part

-1st Pelvic grip: •Mento-ant.→ a horseshoe shaped swelling (sinciput)

•Mento-post.→ a big bulk of the head is felt above the brim

Auscultation: •Mento-ant.→ FHS is heard very well •Mento-post.→ FHS can't be heard

C) Ultrasound: confirms the diagnosis and may identify associated fetal anomalies as anencephaly.

II) During Labor:

Vaginal Examination: Feel (Supraorbital margin – Nose – Alveolar margin – CHIN)

Differential Diagnosis:

*Late in labour, the face becomes edematous so it can be misdiagnosed as a buttock (breech presentation) where the two cheeks are mistaken with buttocks and the mouth with anus and the malar processes with the ischial tuberosities.

Face Presentation	Frank Breech
Fundal grip: the breech is felt	The head is felt
Less resistance of the opening (mouth)	More resistance of the opening (anus) Finger may be meconium stained
Mouth & malar processes form a triangle.	anus is on the same line with ischial tuberosities
The gum is felt hard through the mouth.	No hard object through the anus.

Mechanism of Labour

1-Descent

2-Engagement by submento-bregmatic diameter 9.5 cm

3-Increased extension

4-Internal rotation of chin: (in order to hinge the submental region below the symphysis)

- Mento-anterior → 1/8 circle anteriorly
- Mento-posterior → 3/8 circle anteriorly

5-Flexion: is the movement by which the head is delivered

6-Restitution: (the head points towards the side to which it was directed at the beginning of labor)

7-External rotation: in the same direction of restitution

****In the mento-posterior position:**

-Delivery is by normal mechanism is 40% while delivery is by abnormal mechanism is 60% in which one of the following may occur:

1-Deep transverse arrest of the face: when the chin rotates 1/8 circle anteriorly

2-Persistent mento-posterior: when no rotation occurs

3-Direct mento-posterior: When the chin rotates 1/8 circle posteriorly

► no further progress occurs and labor is obstructed

****Direct mento-posterior, unlike direct occipito-posterior, cannot be delivered because:**

(Delivery should occur by extension while the head is already maximally extended)

Management of Labor:

1-Exclude contracted pelvis (if so → CS)

2-In mento-anterior: Spontaneous delivery usually occurs

3-In mento-posterior: if failure of 3/8 rotation occurs:

•Caesarean section: it is the role in modern obstetrics

•Obsolete methods:

-Manual rotation and forceps -Rotation and extraction at once by Kielland forceps

-Craniotomy: if the fetus is dead

****Ventouse is absolutely contraindicated as there is no structure to attach it to**

****Indications of CS in face presentation:**

1-Contracted pelvis 2-Direct mento-posterior 3-Fetal distress

4-Other obstetrics conditions (e.g. cord prolapse, long term infertility, elderly gravida)

Prognosis:

-Fetal mortality: 10-15% due to:

- Congenital malformations
- Cord prolapse
- Asphyxia from prolonged labor
- Operative interference
- Edema of the glottis

-Increased maternal morbidity due to:

- Exhaustion from prolonged labor
- Perineal tears
- Intrauterine infections
- Ruptured uterus

Brow presentation:

Definition: It is a cephalic presentation in which the head is midway between flexion and extension

Incidence: 1:3000

Etiology: As face presentation

Denominator: Frontal bone

Positions: Right, Left, Anterior & Posterior

Diagnosis:

A) During pregnancy: as face presentation

B) During labor:

In Vaginal examination: feel (frontal bone, root of nose, supraorbital ridges but NOT the chin)

NO Mechanism of Labor:

The engagement diameter is the mento-vertical 13.75 cm which is longer than any diameter of the inlet

Management: Cesarean section
